IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the catalyst layer that reacts with said alkali metal in a manner that dominates over any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal.

13. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the anchor substance that reacts with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is at least one member selected

from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

14. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

15. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

16. (New) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the carrier that reacts with said alkali metal in a manner that dominates over

any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal.

17. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein the anchor substance that reacts with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

18. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

19. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

20. (New) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present between the carrier and the catalyst layer that reacts with said alkali metal in a manner that dominates over any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal.

21. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein the anchor substance that reacts with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

22. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

23. (New) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.